Title I Annual Review

Overview:

Upon receiving data from the previous year's state assessment in mid-September to early-October, schools should conduct a thorough review of their Title I Schoolwide Program during Phase II of KDE's continuous improvement model (October1-November1) in accordance with best practices. The evaluation should determine whether the schoolwide program was effective in increasing the achievement of students in meeting the common core state standards. Consult the Title I Handbook for additional information.

Use the rationale and guiding questions to articulate a succinct, but thorough response to each of the eight components relating to the evaluation of the school's Title I Part A program from the previous year.

1. Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Rationale: A school's Needs Assessment should address critical areas for improvement and identify strengths based on a thorough review of multiple sources of data. Title I funding does not have to address all areas identified in the Needs Assessment because federal, state and local resources are integrated into a schoolwide program, but Title I funds should supplement critical areas of need.

Guiding Questions:

Which data sources did the school use to conduct its Needs Assessment?

What needs did the data identify?

What specific grade levels and/or content areas were identified as priority?

What achievement gaps were identified?

Specifically, how were Title I funds used to address priorities outlined in the Needs Assessment?

Based on a thorough review of multiple sources of data, how effective was the expenditure of Title I funding used to target critical needs?

2. Schoolwide Reform Strategies

Rationale: Schoolwide reform strategies addressed in the schoolwide program plan (ie: CSIP) address goals and objectives to be met through a variety of strategies and activities during the course of a single school year. A school must carefully plan, implement and measure its progress towards the attainment of measurable student achievement goals.

Guiding Questions:

Was the schoolwide plan implemented as written?

Which goal(s) from the CSIP address Schoolwide Reform Strategies?

How is Title I funding being directed to address the goal?

How were strategies selected to address goals based on research, evidence and evaluation of past implementation?

Which activities, strategies, staffing decisions, professional development opportunities and resources were supported with Title I funds?

Were the activities, strategies, staffing decisions, professional development opportunities and resources effective in increasing student achievement?

3. Professional Development

Rationale: Professional Development opportunities should be carefully planned to improve instruction related to priorities specified in the Needs Assessment.

Guiding Questions:

What measures were used to determine the school's PD needs?

How was the PD tied to the school's identified need?

Did the PD improve instruction based on a thorough review of student achievement data?

How were principals, teachers, paraeducators and other appropriate personnel such as health services coordinators, special education coordinators and directors of Family Resource and Youth Service Centers included in the PD?

4. Family Engagement

Rationale: Each school is required to conduct outreach to all parents and family members which may include implementation of the following: programs, activities and procedures that involve parents and family member in Title I programs. In addition, written policies must be developed in collaboration with parents outlining expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement.

Guiding Questions:

How much Title I money was spent on family engagement?

What kind of programs, activities and procedures were planned?

What was the outcome or effectiveness of the planned family engagement programs, activities and procedures?

5. Transitions (from Headstart/Pre-K to Kindergarten and other grade levels)

Rationale: An LEA that receives Title I funds is required to coordinate with Head Start programs and other early learning programs that serve children who will attend schools in the LEA regardless of whether the LEA uses Title I funds to operate an early education program.

Guiding Questions:

How did school and district administrators collaborate through funded programs such as Head Start?

What were the specific strategies used for helping students transition from preschool to elementary school, elementary school to middle school or middle school to high school?

How effective were these strategies?

How were meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary teachers and Head Start teachers conducted to address the developmental needs of the children?

6. Measures used to include teachers in decisions

Rationale: Classroom teachers are key shareholders and should be involved in the selection, use and interpretation of school-based assessments to improve student achievement.

Guiding Questions:

How were all teachers included in the selection of academic assessments?

How did teachers participate in the analysis of data and the development of the overall instructional program in order to improve student achievement?

7. Activities used to ensure students met Kentucky Academic Standards

Rationale: Activities deployed by schools should align with its Needs Assessment and should be delivered in a timely and additional fashion to students struggling to master the standards.

Guiding Questions:

How did the school provide effective, timely and additional intervention to students in danger of not meeting state standards?

How were students and their needs identified for assistance?

How did teachers and paraeducators collaborate for planning and instruction?

How were the activities specified in the comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP) monitored regularly for effectiveness?

Which activities were deemed successful and which ones are in need of change?

8. Coordination and integration of programs

Rationale: A school should establish its improvement plan based on need and must be knowledgeable about how to use all available resources to meet its identified goals.

Guiding Questions:

Which federal, state and local funds were made available to the school?

How did the school coordinate and integrate federal, state and local programs and services to improve instruction and increase student achievement?

What measures were taken to ensure that Title I Part A funds were used to supplement, not supplant existing resources, programs, and staffing needs?